

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, GW, WB, TPHY

SUBJECT: GERMAN INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN
"DAHLEM WORKSHOP"

REF: STATE 087474

1. MISSION OFFICER HAS INTERVIEWED BERNHARD LEWERICH OF DAHLEM KONFERENZEN (DK) ABOUT NATURE OF ORGANIZATION IN ABSENCE OF DR. BERNHARD WHO IS ON VACATION. DK IS A SMALL BERLIN GROUP, ORGANIZED TWO YEARS AGO, WHOSE SOLE TASK IS ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING SMALL, ELITE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES WITH NORMALLY NO MORE THAN 30 TO 50 PARTICIPANTS AND PUBLISHING PAPERS THEREOF. PARTICIPATION IS WORLDWIDE. DK AND ITS CONFERENCES ARE FINANCED BY STIFTERVERBAND DUER DIE DEUTSCHE WISSENSCHAFT (SDW), ESSEN. LEWERICH DESCRIBED SDW AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION CREATED TO CHANNEL FUNDS INTO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON BEHALF OF A NUMBER OF SMALL, RESPONSIBLE WEST GERMAN FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE COMPANIES, AND WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS FOR WHOM IT IS NOT PRACTICAL TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS. DK FUNDING THUS ENTIRELY PRIVATE, ALTHOUGH BERLIN SENAT MAY IN FUTURE DECIDE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION. GROUP ORGANIZES FOUR CONFERENCES PER YEAR, ALL HELD IN BERLIN. DK WORKS CLOSELY WITH DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT (DFG), WHICH ADVISES ON TOPICS FOR CONFERENCES, INDIVIDUALS TO BE INVITED AND INDIVIDUALS TO PRESENT PAPERS. DECISIONS IN THIS AREA ARE TAKEN BY COMMITTEE INCLUDING DR. BERNHARD, REPRESENTATIVES OF DFG, SDW,
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AND OTHER EXPERTS.

2. PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY HAS CONFIRMED PICTURE EMERGING FROM INTERVIEW, NOTING THAT DK GROUP IS OF HIGHEST CALIBER, ARANGING SMALL CONFERENCES OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED ESPERTS.

3. HERR LEWERICH STRESSED THAT DK INVITATIONS ARE INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM ADDRESSED, NOT TO THEIR OFFICES OR ORGANIZATIONS. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT INVITATION TO FORMER EPA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BE FORWARDED TO HIM IF POSSIBLE. IN VIEW OF DK CREDENTIALS, MISSION WOULD FAVOR PARTICIPATION BY USG OFFICIALS WHO RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO FUTURE CONFERENCES, ASSUMING SUBJECT MATTER IS OF SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO INVITEES.GEORGE

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